

with this vote, which is fine with me, if I could be recognized following this vote to offer my amendment, I would very much appreciate that.

I would ask the Senator from Missouri whether I might be recognized following the vote.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, on this side I am not authorized to enter into that type of UC. I assure the Senator and my colleagues on the other side we will work with them. There is a concern about moving into the commerce title. We will work with him if we can move forward on the consent for the judge vote; then we will work on this, if we can get consent for that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, I will go along with what the Senator from Missouri requests. It is kind of unfair to the Senator from North Dakota. We have been begging people to offer amendments. He shows up to offer one and now we cannot do it. It doesn't seem very fair. We may be waiting a long time based upon statements by the chairman in the Chamber. I am happy—

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object—and I will not object—if you want Members to come to the floor with germane amendments, I am here. I have been hearing that a lot today. I have one and it is not a big amendment. What I hear being said at the moment is perhaps you want to go through this bill by title, which is something I have not heard before. It should be open to amendment at any point. That is the reason that, for the last hour or so, I put this amendment together.

My hope is that the Senator from Missouri and those managing will understand, when we are ready to offer an amendment, you ought to welcome it. I hope when I seek recognition, you will allow me to offer it. I expect to speak 8 or 10 minutes. If you want to lay it aside then and work on it, I am happy to do that. I shall not object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request by the Senator from Missouri?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, when are we going to have the vote? It is past 4 o'clock.

Mr. BOND. I believe at this point it is necessary to revise the unanimous consent. First, I say to my friend from North Dakota that the title he wants to amend has not been offered. That is a problem on which we are going to have to work. We have only offered the EPW portion.

I asked unanimous consent that there be 5 minutes equally divided between the chairman and the ranking member and, thereafter, there be a vote on the nomination of Mark R. Filip, of Illinois, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

I renew my request. Following the 5 minutes, I ask unanimous consent that

the Senate proceed to a vote on the confirmation and, following the vote, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF MARK R. FILIP TO BE U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of the Mark R. Filip, of Illinois, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

The Senator from Illinois is recognized.

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. President, I take just a few moments to introduce to my colleagues the nominee on whom we are going to be voting in a couple of minutes. I recommended Mark Filip to President Bush. President Bush nominated him. Senator DURBIN concurred in my recommendation to President Bush. I thank Senator DURBIN for his support in this effort. I also thank Chairman HATCH and Senator LEAHY on the Judiciary Committee, and all members of the Judiciary Committee, for helping to move this nomination forward to the floor.

I think one of the most difficult tasks most of us have in the Senate is finding outstanding nominees to the Federal judicial branch of Government. In many cases, at least from my perspective, the choice has been very difficult. Oftentimes, we will get 80 applicants for a single district court judgeship opening in Chicago and you have to pick just one person. That one person, obviously, is very happy and you have many others who are disappointed that they did not get chosen.

In this case, I was elated to find a person of such outstanding credentials that I could wholeheartedly recommend him to the President. I think in the case of this nominee, Mark R. Filip, we are in fact lucky to have someone of his caliber who is willing to leave a very lucrative practice in the private sector. He is now a partner at Skadden Arps' Chicago office. He is willing to leave that very prestigious position to move into public service and become a district court judge in the Northern District of Illinois.

Mark Filip lives in Winnetka, IL, with his wife Beth. They have four sons.

Mark grew up in Chicago and attended the University of Illinois at Champaign. He graduated summa cum laude from the University of Illinois. While there, he received many academic fellowships, including the pres-

tigious Phi Beta Kappa fellowship. After graduating from U of I, he won the highly sought after Marshall Scholarship to attend Oxford. While there, he received a B.A. and M.A. in jurisprudence and won first class honors at Oxford. Returning from his Marshall scholarship to the United States, he matriculated at the Harvard Law School. He did similarly well at Harvard. He became an editor of the Harvard Law Review.

In Mark Filip's second year at Harvard, he won the Sears Prize, which is given annually to the two students of the second year class who achieved the highest grades. Ultimately, in the early 1990s, Mark Filip graduated magna cum laude from Harvard Law School.

He began his professional career in Chicago, serving as an associate at Kirkland & Ellis, one of the best and oldest firms in Chicago. After a couple of years in the Kirkland & Ellis Chicago office, he moved to the U.S. Attorney's Office and became an assistant U.S. attorney in the Northern District of Illinois, where he gained a lot of experience in a wide variety of criminal cases that he prosecuted successfully, including racketeering, white-collar crime, public corruption, tax fraud cases; and he successfully defended the U.S. Attorney's Office on appeal in many of those cases.

Mark Filip returned to the private sector. After leaving the U.S. Attorney's Office, he became an associate at Skadden Arps in 1999, and in 2001 he became a partner at Skadden Arps.

In recent years, he has been an adjunct professor of law at Northwestern University and the University of Chicago Law School, both outstanding institutions.

Now, again, I emphasize how delighted I am to be able to present to my colleagues in the Senate such a well-qualified nominee, Mark Filip, who is a very young man. He has four children, who range in age from 8 months to 6 years. He is in his late thirties, and I expect that if he goes on the district court in Chicago at this early age, he may well have the opportunity to rise to the circuit court of appeals.

I neglected to mention that between law school and his professional career, he had two very prized judicial clerkships. He served as a law clerk to Steven Williams on the DC Court of Appeals and then as a law clerk for Supreme Court Justice Scalia.

I am confident, having researched and talked to all those he has worked with over the years, that there is no question he will make a superior district court judge.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, we are considering the nomination of Mark Filip to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. The vote today on Mr. Filip is the second vote on a judicial nominee this year, and demonstrates the Democrats'